

Attorney Docket No. 251314US41  
Inventor: Claude D. NOTTIN  
Preliminary Amendment Filed: April 16, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

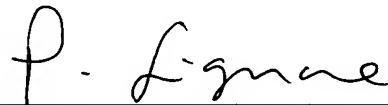
Favorable consideration of this patent application in light of the foregoing Amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are presently active, Claims 1-13 being amended by the present preliminary amendment to delete the multiple dependency, to remove the designated reference numerals, and to better comply with U.S. claim drafting practice. The present amendment is not believed to narrow any of the claims.

Accordingly, examination on the merits is in order, and an early and favorable Office Action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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